

# *SERVE* Illinois

## N E W S L E T T E R

A Prevention First publication

Summer 2007

### *Illinois Youth Mobilize for 19th Annual National & Global Youth Service Day*

## Youth Volunteers Serving Their Communities

The Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS), through its AmeriCorps\*State programs, mobilized over **1,600 youth** to participate in some **4,700 hours of service** for the 19th Annual National & Global Youth Service Day (NGYSD), Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 2007.



*4 Counties for Kids AmeriCorps Program*

community service projects and special events to celebrate the largest service day in the world. The national event is organized by Youth Service America (YSA) with the support of State Farm Companies Foundation as the Presenting Sponsor. More than 115 National Partners and 51 Lead Agencies, like ICVCS, organized projects.



*Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of the Quad Cities  
AmeriCorps Program*



#### ICVCS Executive

Director Scott Kimmel commended the effort of Illinois' AmeriCorps Members and programs in the planning and coordination of this statewide day of service. "Our AmeriCorps Leaders, representing 21 AmeriCorps\*State programs across Illinois, have shown exceptional leadership in order to 'get things done' in their communities. We hope that the youth and others they lead in service at the local level will remember National & Global Youth Service Day 2007 as a positive and fulfilling experience and that they continue to serve their communities in the future."

Illinois AmeriCorps' NGYSD projects focused around the broad theme of "environment" and included projects such as community gardening, neighborhood clean-ups, tree plantings, and educational outreach activities related to environmental conservation.

Volunteers of all ages throughout Illinois, and millions of youth in the United States and in 116 other countries, participated in



*Commissioner Fred Rodriguez with PCC  
Westside AmeriCorps Members*

In recognition of the tremendous growth of participation world-wide, and in celebration of the event's 20th anniversary, this day of service will henceforth be referred to as "Global Youth Service Day."

For more information about YSA or NGYSD, visit [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org) or [www.SERVEnet.org](http://www.SERVEnet.org).

*Save the Date for 2008!*  
**GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY**  
*April 25-27, 2008*

## From the Secretary



for the 2007-08 grant year.

The announcement of these new funds comes as welcome news for the ICVCS and speaks to the quality of the applications submitted to the CNCS. In 2005, Illinois ranked 22nd nationally in AmeriCorps\*Competitive funding. In 2006, **Illinois ranked 8th nationally**, and in 2007 Illinois will be home to seven competitively-funded programs which should improve our national ranking even more.

As you read this newsletter, AmeriCorps program staff are engaging in recruitment efforts for the 2007-2008 program year. By the end of August, more than 600 AmeriCorps Members across the state will be performing acts of service in the areas of education, public safety, environmental, and other human needs to Illinois citizens and communities.

I applaud both the ICVCS and the AmeriCorps programs and Members across the state for their efforts on behalf of the citizens of Illinois, and their participation in something greater than themselves: national service and volunteerism efforts. As the American clergyman and writer Norman Vincent Peale once said, "The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have."

Stay energized and keep working hard. The ICVCS and Illinois Department of Human Services will do the same!

All the best,

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary  
Illinois Department of Human Services

## From the Chair



Commissioners Dorothy Miaso, Fred Rodriguez, and I had the privilege of attending the Illinois LeaderCorps' Year-End Conference in June where we expressed our thanks and support on behalf of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) to these fine AmeriCorps Leaders. AmeriCorps Leaders are selected by their fellow AmeriCorps Members and/or Program Directors to represent their AmeriCorps program for the purpose of coordinating statewide days of service, maintaining alumni connections, and assisting the ICVCS with AmeriCorps Opening Day and other statewide AmeriCorps National Service initiatives.

Since the creation of Illinois LeaderCorps in April 2006, and after one full year of operation, bylaws have been created, officer positions established, an AmeriCorps Alums initiative and the statewide National & Global Youth Service Day (NGYSD) initiative have been launched. The impressive results of our 2007 NGYSD statewide service project can be found in the "Numbers" section on page 4 of this newsletter.

The Illinois LeaderCorps program soon will be underway for 2007-2008 under the leadership of Joel Newman of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Quad Cities AmeriCorps Program, who recently was elected LeaderCorps President. He follows in the footsteps of Patrick Bader and Lauren Nichols, both of AmeriCorps Project YES! in Chicago – and has big shoes to fill! See the photograph (right) of our first three LeaderCorps presidents – leaders to watch in the years to come!

Again, let me give my thanks and whole-hearted support of Illinois LeaderCorps to represent AmeriCorps Members in Illinois and the good work they accomplish to make our communities better and stronger.

Sincerely,

Dave Lawrence, Chairman  
Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service



(l-r) Incoming LeaderCorps President Joel Newman  
with Past-Presidents Lauren Nichols and Patrick Bader.



## Nicor Participates in 11th Annual Volunteer Day

*Hundreds of Nicor employees and families give back to Illinois communities*

Nicor employees and their families fulfilled the company's commitment to volunteerism as part of the 11th Annual Volunteer Day. Assisted by community members, hundreds of employees **served 21 communities** by **completing 28 projects**, including a special project to benefit United Cerebral Palsy of Will County.



A \$6,000 grant, highlighting this year's energy efficiency theme, was donated by Nicor to United Cerebral Palsy of Will County on Volunteer Day to fund energy "make-overs" allowing these buildings to become more energy efficient and cost-effective. In addition, Nicor employees conducted appliance safety inspections.

"Nicor's Volunteer Day embodies the spirit of giving back to the communities we serve," said Russ Strobel, Chairman, President and CEO for Nicor Inc. and Nicor Gas. "Now in our 11th year, Nicor's Volunteer Corps is again assisting on a number of Volunteer Day projects throughout Northern Illinois."

Volunteer Day at Nicor is an annual celebration of the company's year-round commitment to communities. The company contributed more than \$1.7 million to philanthropic efforts throughout Northern Illinois in 2006. Nicor employees contributed financially, but also donated their time to numerous worthy causes throughout the year.



*Nicor Inc. (NYSE: GAS) is a holding company and member of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index. Its primary business, Nicor Gas, is one of the nation's largest natural gas distribution companies. Nicor owns Tropical Shipping, a containerized shipping business serving the Caribbean and the Bahamas. In addition, the company owns and has an equity interest in several energy-related businesses. For more information, visit the Nicor Web site at [www.nicor.com](http://www.nicor.com).*



*The mission of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service*

*is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing volunteerism and community service. Commissioners, appointed by the governor, represent experience in local government, labor, education, older adults, public health, nonprofits, business, volunteerism and national service.*

[www.illinois.gov/volunteer](http://www.illinois.gov/volunteer)

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dave Lawrence, Chair, Savoy  
Howard L. Lathan, Vice Chair, Chicago  
Daniel F. Bassill, Park Ridge  
Walter E. Grady, Crete  
Dorothy Miaso, Chicago  
Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, Arlington Heights  
Kelly Reffett, LaSalle  
Frederick Rodriguez, Ph.D., Western Springs  
James C. Tyree, Chicago  
Jocelyn D. Cheng, Ex-Officio, Chicago  
Ted Gibbs, Ex-Officio, Chicago  
John Hosteny, Ex-Officio, Chicago

### COMMISSION STAFF

Scott Kimmel, Executive Director  
Deborah McCarrel, AmeriCorps Program Manager  
Lisa Hooker, AmeriCorps Program Officer  
Scott Niermann, Volunteer Programs Manager  
Scott McFarland, Graduate Public Service Intern

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT DHS

Dr. Myrtis Sullivan, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Acting Director  
Division of Community Health and Prevention  
Kim Fornero, Chief  
Bureau of Community-Based  
and Primary Prevention

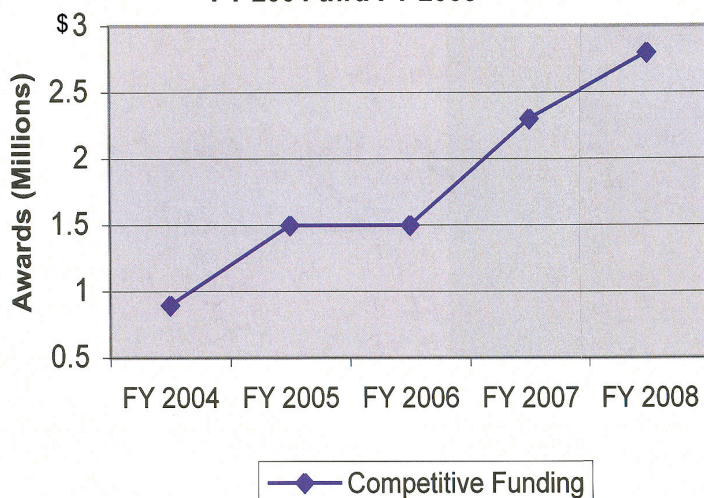
# you should know

*Results of the 2007 Statewide National & Global Youth Service Day initiative coordinated by Illinois LeaderCorps:*

- More than 1,600 youth engaged in service, for a total of 4,700 hours of service;
- 299 AmeriCorps Members and staff coordinated projects in their communities;
- Nearly 200 adult volunteers outside of AmeriCorps participated;
- More than 400 community organizations and service partners collaborated statewide;
- Twelve (12) AmeriCorps\*State programs organized 55 different projects across Illinois;
- Nearly \$10,000 in cash and in-kind donations leveraged for projects;
- Eight (8) elected officials attended and/or engaged in our events; and,
- Projects mentioned in 18 radio/TV/newspaper media outlets.

ICVCS recently was awarded an additional \$861,886 annually in new federal AmeriCorps\*Competitive funds for the 2007-2010 grant cycle by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The chart below provides a visual of ICVCS' Competitive funding levels since FY 2004.

**Illinois AmeriCorps  
Competitive Grant Funding  
FY 2004 thru FY 2008**



*Illinois LeaderCorps wrapped up its inaugural year with a conference in Chicago June 6-7, 2007.*

The gathering included 18 LeaderCorps members from around the state, ICVCS Commissioners Dave Lawrence, Dorothy Miaso and Fred Rodriguez, ICVCS staff members and five Chicago-area alumni. The conference served as an opportunity to reconvene after National & Global Youth Service Day, and provided a chance to assess the objectives and strategies for next year's class of AmeriCorps Leaders.



Illinois LeaderCorps welcomed several guest speakers on the topic, "Life After AmeriCorps." Patrick Bader, AmeriCorps Project YES! Alum and past president of LeaderCorps, spoke of his personal experience. Conference facilitator, Christy Hicks, Associate Director of AmeriCorps Alums, and local trainer Jose Wilson spoke to the importance of networking and utilizing skills learned during AmeriCorps after service is completed. Emphasis was placed on the value of making connections with others as well as understanding the significance of the opportunities available to AmeriCorps alumni.

LeaderCorps wants to build its successful efforts of the past year, and gain ground in facilitating collaboration between AmeriCorps programs and alumni in Illinois. Newly elected officers Joel Newman, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Quad Cities, and Sean Bond, ABC AmeriCorps, president and vice president, respectively, and Esther Lindström of AmeriCorps Project YES!, secretary, are looking forward to even more collaboration in their upcoming year of service.

- Submitted By Esther Lindström, LeaderCorps Secretary



## MISSION

The mission of LeaderCorps is to connect AmeriCorps programs in Illinois through state, national and global days of service and to promote continued AmeriCorps alumni involvement.



## What is Service-Learning?

Service-learning combines service to the community with student learning in a way that improves both the student and the community. According to the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, service-learning:

- 1 Is a method whereby students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in, and meets the needs of, communities;
- 2 It is coordinated with an elementary school, secondary school, institution of higher learning, or community service program and the community;
- 3 Helps foster civic responsibility;
- 4 Is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students, or the education components of the community service program in which the participants are enrolled; and,
- 5 Provides structured time for students or participants to reflect on the service experience.

## What does Service-Learning Look Like?

In colleges and schools, service-learning is part of the academic curriculum. In community organizations, youth develop practical skills, self-esteem, and a sense of civic responsibility. Examples of service-learning projects include:

- preserving native plants,
- designing neighborhood playgrounds,
- teaching young children to read,
- testing the local water quality,
- creating wheelchair ramps,
- preparing food for the homeless,
- developing urban community gardens, and
- starting school recycling programs.

## Why Service-Learning?

Research continues to support service-learning programs as an effective method to increase student academic achievement. According to a leading researcher in service-learning, Shelly Billing, RMC Research Corporation, "Service-learning, when implemented with high quality, yields statistically significant impacts on academic achievement, civic engagement, acquisition of leadership skills, and personal/social development."

### Service-Learning Contacts in Illinois

Cesar Chavez Serve and Learn Program  
(K-12 School-Based Learn & Serve America)  
Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn  
(Ted Gibbs, Serve and Learn Coordinator)  
[www.standingupforillinois.org/2007/servelearn/](http://www.standingupforillinois.org/2007/servelearn/)

Illinois Campus Compact  
(College- and University-Based Service Learning)  
DePaul University  
(Kathy Engelken, Executive Director)  
[www.illinoiscampuscompact.org](http://www.illinoiscampuscompact.org)

## Lighting the Way for Service and Success



The **Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference (SIVC)**

will be **September 27, 2007** at John A. Logan

College, **Carterville, Illinois**. Sessions run from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, with registration beginning at 8:00 AM.

Featured guest speakers include Dana Eikenberg, SIU Head Women's Basketball Coach, and Captain Bill Norwood (Retired), United Airlines Pilot, Centralia, Illinois native and SIUC Alum. Both speakers have made the effort to promote volunteerism in their local communities and throughout Southern Illinois. The conference also will feature a variety of breakout sessions led by volunteer and nonprofit sector professionals in the field. For more information about conference registration or to reserve a display table, please **contact ICVCS at 1-800-592-9896 or email [DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov)**.

Entering its 11th year, SIVC is a collaboration of numerous volunteer agencies and institutions from throughout the southern part of the Illinois. Representatives from the following agencies serve on the conference Steering Committee:

- American Red Cross – Little Egypt Network
- Egyptian Area Agency on Aging
- Habitat for Humanity – Centralia Chapter
- Heartland Regional Medical Center – Auxiliary Volunteers
- Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service
- John A. Logan College
- Kaskaskia College
- Rend Lake College / Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps
- Shawnee Alliance for Seniors
- Shawnee Community College
- Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
- Southeastern Illinois College
- Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
- Southwestern Illinois College
- St. Mary's Good Samaritan, Inc.
- University of Illinois Extension

## *PCC Community Wellness Center's Health Educators:*

# Reaching Out and Changing Lives

Since the program's inception, more than 70% of diabetic patients who receive support from an AmeriCorps Health Educator at PCC Community Wellness Center have shown a reduction in one or more key outcome measures: blood pressure, BMI, and HgA1c. Such reductions significantly reduce the risk of complications from diabetes such as heart attack, stroke, amputation, and blindness.

PCC's AmeriCorps Health Education program attributes its success to the multiple forms of health education and support available, and having the ability to tailor services for each individual. For example, if a patient comes to PCC with an out of control blood sugar level, and is in immediate need of IV fluids and insulin, the PCC provider asks an AmeriCorps Health Educator to join them in the exam room. The AmeriCorps Health Educator sits with the patient while the patient receives IV therapy, demonstrates how to use a glucometer, and how to record the results. Together, they set a goal for how often the patient needs

to test his or her blood sugar. The AmeriCorps Health Educator assesses the patient's diet and daily routine, which helps the provider decide on a schedule of medication for the patient. The AmeriCorps Health Educator also assists the patient in making a follow-up appointment and calls the patient before the appointment.

The AmeriCorps Health Educator continues to make regular phone calls to the patient, assists with meal planning, exercise, and stress management goals. Questions and issues that come up during these phone calls are discussed with the provider and documented in the patient's chart.

The PCC Westside AmeriCorps program provides health education and outreach services to address extremely high rates of asthma, diabetes, lead poisoning, and infant mortality in PCC's service area. Each year, PCC recruits and trains individuals from the community, and from across the country through a national AmeriCorps recruitment database, to participate in a year of service. Team members go through six-weeks of intense training. Team members provide outreach through home or clinic visits, hospital visits, phone calls, letters, group classes, and at health fairs.

PCC's health education services have a positive impact on the community because PCC's AmeriCorps Health Educators are able to reach patients at all points of service. AmeriCorps Health Educators follow up with patients through phone calls and home visits to work on goal setting and problem solving. They also may reach patients in the community through group exercise and nutrition classes. This program year, PCC's AmeriCorps Health Educators will reach 1,000 individuals.

- Submitted By Andrea M. Taylor, MPA, Grants & Communications Coordinator, PCC Community Wellness Center



*PCC Westside AmeriCorps Member  
Anna Herdeck providing health  
education in the clinic*



*PCC Westside AmeriCorps Members, Anna Herdeck and Nick Nahm,  
at a health fair providing health education*

## **Illinois State University, Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development, Normal, IL**

Illinois State University's Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development welcomes former AmeriCorps members as Applied Community and Economic Development Fellows. Fellows complete one calendar year of on-campus study, including the core courses for a master's degree in Applied Economics, Political Science, or Sociology, each with an interdisciplinary sequence in Applied Community/Economic Development. Fellows then complete an 11-month paid professional internship. Fellows have a graduate assistantship and stipend during the fall and spring semesters on campus, and receive a full tuition waiver over the two-year program. Fellows not only assist communities in need but also enhance their skills and gain credentials as development professionals.

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By fax: 217.557.0515. By e-mail: [DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov)

**ILLINOIS  
COMMISSION ON  
VOLUNTEERISM &  
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

# TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Basic Volunteer Management Training

**August 8 & 15, 2007** (two full days)

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Erie Neighborhood House

Chicago, Illinois

*\* Curriculum based on the Volunteer Management Training Series developed by the Points of Light Foundation/Volunteer Center National Network.*

312.491.7824

[mkruse@communityresourcenetwork.org](mailto:mkruse@communityresourcenetwork.org)

## Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference Lighting the Way for Service and Success

**September 27, 2007**

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(Registration begins 8:00 AM)

John A. Logan College Conference Center

Carterville, Illinois

1.800.592.9896

## Volunteer Administrator/Director/Manager Associations and Affinity Groups:

### Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago

Fourth Tuesday of every month

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

773.753.1382 • [matt.porth@msichicago.org](mailto:matt.porth@msichicago.org)

### Council for Volunteerism

Second Thursday of every month, beginning September 13, 2007

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

217.352.5151 • [lynn@uwayhelps.org](mailto:lynn@uwayhelps.org)

[www.uwayhelps.org/volunteer/managers](http://www.uwayhelps.org/volunteer/managers)

### DuPage Association of Volunteer Administration

Fourth Wednesday of every month

(except August, November & December)

630.963.1304 • [psemple@dgparks.org](mailto:psemple@dgparks.org)

[www.dava-il.org](http://www.dava-il.org)

### Land of Lincoln Professional Volunteer Managers Association

Second Tuesday of every month

NOON – 1:30 PM

217.786.2289 • [CVC@llcc.edu](mailto:CVC@llcc.edu)

### Mississippi Valley DOVIA

First Thursday in August, October & December

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

[www.mvdovia.org](http://www.mvdovia.org)

### Network of Volunteer Administrators (NOVA)

Peoria, Tatewell and Woodford County

Third Wednesday of every other month

309.467.9059 • [RSVP@maple-lawn.com](mailto:RSVP@maple-lawn.com)



Hands On Network is pleased to announce, "Summer Studies" a series of FREE Webinars for national service programs.

These 90-minute sessions are at 2:00 (EDT) on July 26, Aug 9, Aug 23 and Aug 30. See below for session descriptions and links to registration. You can attend as many sessions as you'd like, but space is limited, so sign up today!

## Volunteer Management: Recruitment

**July 26, 2007**

Volunteers are vital for nonprofits to serve communities and achieve the mission of the organization. Recruitment is the first step in securing volunteer participation in your national service program. This session helps you explore the basics of recruitment and creating recruitment strategy. (Participants can attend our follow-up session: Effectively Using New Media to Engage Volunteers)

## Effectively Using New Media to Engage Volunteers

**August 9, 2007**

Myspace. Podcasts. Wikipedia. Blogs. YouTube. Sure, you've heard about them on Dateline. But did you know they're applicable not just to teenagers? After looking at national technology trends, we'll explore a host of ways participants can utilize these new media applications to engage their volunteers and market themselves to groups ranging from teenagers to first-time volunteers.

## Service To Civics

**August 23, 2007**

How do you define civic involvement? In this session, participants will craft personal definitions of civic involvement and discuss the implications of defining civic involvement. You'll be introduced to the concept of reflection and how intentionally combining reflection and meaningful service can deepen the civic commitment of your volunteers. We also will explore a variety of reflection ideas that you will be able to apply to your volunteer program.

## Going for the Gold: Turning Short-Term Volunteers Into Long-Term Success Stories

**August 30, 2007**

Your program needs volunteers to help with tasks such as planning meetings, creating newsletters, Web pages, managing finances, etc. Finding, and recruiting can be challenging, but once you have done so, now what? A long-term volunteer, who is passionate about the work, will benefit your program with continuity of service, reduce costs, increase recruitment and outreach support, and more. This session explores ways to recruit and retain volunteers and help your transition them into satisfied long-term volunteers.

To **register** for any of the below sessions, please log on to: <https://handsonnetwork.webex.com/mw0302l/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=handsonnetwork>

For further **information** please e-mail: [training@handsonnetwork.org](mailto:training@handsonnetwork.org)



# Upcoming Days of Service

August 4, 2007	Community Build Day <a href="http://www.fsround.org/community/cbd.htm">www.fsround.org/community/cbd.htm</a>
September 11, 2007	Patriot Day <a href="http://www.myGoodDeed.org">www.myGoodDeed.org</a>
October 22-27, 2007	Kids Care Week <a href="http://www.kidscare.org">www.kidscare.org</a>
October 27, 2007	Make a Difference Day <a href="http://www.makeadifferenceday.com">www.makeadifferenceday.com</a>



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[DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov](mailto:DHS.SERVEIllinois@Illinois.gov)  
800.592.9896  
TTY 888.261.2713

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*Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project: Meeting the needs for AmeriCorps Members of all backgrounds and abilities.*



*“Building Stronger Communities Through Service”*

Published by  
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Springfield, IL 62704

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